

LISTING OF CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

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Claim 1. (Currently Amended): A terminal control apparatus for controlling a terminal device that performs a specific process, said terminal control apparatus comprising:

communication means for performing communication between the terminal device and the terminal control apparatus; and

control means for controlling the terminal device, by using a terminal control function that accords with the terminal device and personal user data peculiar to a particular user and to a particular separate user terminal of that user different from the terminal device so that the user can use the terminal device as if the terminal device were the particular user terminal, the control means communicating with the terminal control apparatus through the communication means.

Claim 2. (Previously Presented): The terminal control apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the control means selects an optimal one of plural available terminal control functions for the terminal device, and performs the optimal terminal control function selected, thereby to control the terminal device.

Claim 3. (Currently Amended): The terminal control apparatus according to claim 2,

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wherein the control means comprises selection means for selecting the optimal terminal control function ~~optimal~~ in accordance with terminal information that represents terminal device type and terminal device capabilities, and function-performing means for performing the optimal terminal control function selected by the selection means.

Claim 4. (Previously Presented): The terminal control apparatus according to claim 3, wherein the function-performing means comprises function control means for controlling various function units of the terminal device, and the function control means controls the functions corresponding to the various function units in accordance with terminal device capability data contained in the terminal information.

Claim 5. (Previously Presented): The terminal control apparatus according to claim 1, wherein information is received from and transmitted to the terminal device through a terminal control system that operates regardless of what type of terminal device is present.

Claim 6. (Previously Presented): A method of controlling a terminal device that performs a specific process, comprising the steps of:

communicating between the terminal device and a terminal control device;
selecting one of a plurality of available terminal device control functions that each relate to a different kind of terminal device based on the terminal device actually communicating in the communicating step; and

controlling the terminal device by using the available terminal device control function selected in the selecting step that accords with the terminal device actually communicating in the communicating step.

Claim 7. (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 6, wherein an optimal terminal control function for the terminal device actually communicating in the communicating step is selected in the selecting step.

Claim 8. (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 7, which further comprises selecting the optimal terminal control function in accordance with the capabilities of the terminal device actually communicating in the communicating step.

Claim 9. (Currently Amended): A terminal device having various function units, said terminal device comprising:

communication means for performing communication between the terminal device and the a terminal control apparatus; and

control means for transmitting terminal information to the terminal control apparatus indicating what type of terminal device is communicating with the terminal control apparatus and capabilities of the terminal device communicating with the terminal control apparatus, the terminal control apparatus selecting terminal device control functions based on the indication of terminal device type and capabilities and providing the selected terminal device control

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functions to the control means for controlling the function units to perform specific processes in accordance with the selected terminal device control functions selected and provided from the terminal control apparatus responsive to the terminal information received at the terminal control apparatus, wherein said terminal information indicates what type of terminal device is communicating with the terminal control apparatus and capabilities of the terminal device communicating with the terminal control apparatus.

Claim 10. (Previously Presented): The terminal device according to claim 9, wherein the control means comprises information-storing means for storing the terminal information, information-transmitting means for acquiring the terminal information from the information-storing means and transmitting the acquired terminal information to the terminal control apparatus, and function-performing means for causing the function units to perform the specific processes.

Claim 11. (Currently Amended): A method of controlling a terminal device having various function units, said method comprising steps of:

acquiring terminal information at a terminal control apparatus from the a terminal device, the acquired information indicating what type of terminal device is present and capabilities thereof ;

selecting terminal device control functions based on the acquired information indication of terminal device type and capabilities at to the terminal control apparatus; and

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controlling the function units to perform specific processes in accordance with the selected terminal device control functions selected and provided from the terminal control apparatus responsive to the terminal information, wherein said terminal information indicates what type of terminal device is transmitting terminal information to the terminal control apparatus and capabilities of the transmitting terminal device.

Claim 12. (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 11, which further comprises a step of acquiring the terminal information from an information-storing means.

Claim 13. (Previously Presented): A medium storing a program for controlling a terminal device having various function units, the program comprising:
controlling acquisition of terminal information from the terminal device and transmission of the terminal information to a terminal control apparatus; and
causing the terminal control apparatus to control the various function units provided in the terminal device to perform specific processes in accordance with terminal device control functions selected and provided from the terminal control apparatus responsive to the terminal information received at the terminal control apparatus.

Claim 14. (Previously Presented): The medium according to claim 13, which stores a plurality of programs for controlling the terminal function units and stores a program for causing the terminal control apparatus to select an optimal program for the terminal device in

accordance with terminal device type.

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Claim 15. (Previously Presented): The medium according to claim 13, wherein said program causes the terminal control apparatus to select an optimal program for the terminal device in accordance with terminal information that represents terminal device type and capabilities of the terminal device.

Claim 16. (Original): The medium according to claim 13, which is incorporated in the terminal control apparatus.

Claim 17. (Original): The medium according to claim 14, wherein said plurality of programs are used in common in a plurality of terminal devices.

Claim 18. (Original): The medium according to claim 13, wherein the program imparts an input function, a communication function and a display function to the terminal device.

Claim 19. (Original): The medium according to claim 18, wherein the program is a mail-receiving program.

Claim 20. (Previously Presented): A program for causing a terminal control apparatus to control various function units provided in a terminal device, said program being one selected

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by the terminal control apparatus in accordance with terminal information that represents terminal device type and capabilities of the terminal device, said program imparting at least one of an input function, a communication function and a display function to the terminal device based on the terminal information.
